

PRESS RELEASE

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Barre to Receive Further Federal Funding for Wastewater Treatment Plant

Amherst, MA – USDA Rural Development State Director David Tuttle announced today that Barre, MA would receive an additional \$335,000 in federal loans and grants for the improvement project currently under way at the Barre Wastewater Treatment Facility. The \$184,250 low-interest loan and \$150,750 grant announced today brings USDA Rural Development's contribution to the project, which began in 2002, to over \$2.5 million. Barre's wastewater treatment facility services over 2,000 residents.

The 2002 Farm Bill, signed into law by President Bush on May 13, 2002 provided Barre with a \$501,600 low-interest loan and \$410,400 grant to begin work at the treatment facility which included the installation of an equalization basin. In May, 2004 Barre received an additional \$1,290,000 from USDA Rural Development to install new sludge pumps and an aeration system.

"An improved wastewater system means an improved community and an improved environment," said State Director Tuttle. "USDA Rural Development is here to ensure that Barre, and rural communities like it, has the infrastructure necessary to increase economic opportunities and enhance the quality of life here."

State Senator Stephen Brewer said he was pleased that additional funding had been allocated to the Wastewater Treatment Plant. "I am grateful that USDA Rural Development is committed to the Town of Barre."

Representative Anne Gobi added, "This additional federal funding will assist the town in their commitment to provide an environmentally sound wastewater treatment plant for all residents."

As a venture capital entity within the Department of Agriculture, Rural Development provides equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure.

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